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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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What your heart thinks great
is great. The soul's emphasis is
always right.—Emerson

THE BRIDGE CONTROVERSY

THE hullabaloo over the bridge
engineer is largely a tempest
in a sea pot.
With men like Modjeski
offering to perform the service at
\$60,000, the five per cent com-
pensation to Waddell & Harrington
is too much. There is, how-
ever, no charge that Waddell &
Harrington are incompetent, or un-
derstand as bridge engineers, and
since there is no such charge the
thousand difference in the com-
pensation is not sufficient
cause for all this spilling of blood,
this bitterness and these tears.

If there had been one bridge for
each of the twelve engineers, and
each had secured a contract for
one bridge, all would have been
quiet along the Potomac. This
would have been more especially
true, if six of the bridges had been
located with approaches on Patton
avenue and six with approaches
on Union avenue.

Unhappily, there was but one
bridge to build, and but one en-
gineer got a job. In consequence,
the attorneys of the disgruntled
engineers, the friends of the un-
successful engineers and some of
the disappointed competitors them-
selves have made it a hot time in
the old town.

Misrepresentations of the facts
by interested parties have brought
numerous innocent and perfectly
sincere persons into the contro-
versy. Some of these have been
mistakenly led to believe that the
whole performance by the board
was hocus pocus, which is not true.
The board undoubtedly made the
award in honesty and to the best
of its ability. It has allowed a
larger fee for the service than
should have been allowed, and
should still cut the figure to a
flat amount if that can be done.

But it is no time to think of re-
opening the subject with the idea
of making another choice. A sec-
ond selection would probably be
followed by a second outburst be-
cause the other fellow got the
job, and a great constructive plan
for building a great inter-state
highway would become horse play.

In the whole matter, our neigh-
bors and colleagues in Vancouver
and Clarke county are to be con-
sidered. A proper respect for them
would suggest an orderly and hon-
orable procedure, and a speedy ad-
vance in the work of constructing
the great bridge.

BANKER 'COMES BACK'

PAUL STENSLAND, former
president of a Chicago bank,
absconded in 1906 with \$500,-
000 of the bank's funds.
James Keeley, editor of the Chi-
cago Tribune, was instrumental in
tracing the banker to Morocco,
where he was arrested and sent
back to Chicago.
Stensland made a full confession
in which he charged the bank's
cashier with responsibility for the
balance of a shortage of \$2,000,-
000. Stensland served four years
in the penitentiary, and the cash-
ier also served a term in prison.
A portion of the stolen money was
recovered from the cashier, but
the bank's receiver was able to
pay depositors only 85 cents on
the dollar.

The other day, Mr. Keeley, ad-
dressing business men at a public
dinner, made an announcement
concerning Mr. Stensland. The
editor said:
"The banker whom they say I
brought back has 'come back.' He
went to the penitentiary and stayed
there four years. He came out. Two
days before Christmas this year he
called upon me and was the hap-
piest man I have seen in ten years."
Mr. Stensland is on his feet
again. He has made some money,
and he has placed more than 50
per cent of it in Mr. Keeley's
hands. The former banker hopes
to add to the sum until he can
pay off the 15 per cent that was
not paid by the receiver of the
bank. The amount involved is
something like \$100,000.

Mr. Keeley said the former
banker is a man who has been in
the depths and has come out again
and is making good. "He is going
to be a citizen again, and there is
no man for whom I have more af-
fection."

Why did the former banker re-
spect the man who brought him
back to punishment as his first
friend of a renewed manhood?
Keeley was Stensland's friend
while pursuing him even more
than he is today. For the true
friend is one who insists that a
man be a man even though he
has erred.
Because he was brought back.

Mr. Stensland is not pursued by
remorse. He is not fleeing his own
shadow. He has a chance in the
world. As a fugitive from jus-
tice there was no future for him.
He is happy, where otherwise he
would have been miserable.

THE NEW PLAN

THE contract has been ordered
prepared for installing the
Somers system of equalized
valuations in the assessment
of Multnomah county.
The members of the board of
county commissioners deserve
credit for their action. County
Assessor Reed is entitled to the
same commendation for his efforts
in behalf of the system.

Some of the big estates of the
city sent representatives to oppose
the plan. There was also opposi-
tion from a few heavy property
owners, and by several realty specu-
lators.

Property in some parts of Port-
land is assessed at 50 per cent of
its sale value and in other parts
at 70 and 75 per cent of its sale
value. That is taxation on an
immoral basis. It is use of the
taxing power by guesswork. It
is a hit-and-miss business out of
which many taxpayers are victim-
ized and a much smaller number
rewarded.

The county commissioners and
the assessor are right. The tax-
ing power should be used with
justice and equality between man
and man. Whenever it is used
unequally, the strong profit and
the weak lose. To argue against
the Somers system is to argue for
perpetuation of the present system,
which nobody claims is equitable.
Is there anybody in Portland
who is willing to come out in the
open and declare publicly for an
unequal assessment?

MAYOR MITCHELL

TO BUT few men does oppor-
tunity bring such a rich
dower as she has brought to
the young mayor of greater
New York. Into his keeping she
has entrusted the welfare of five
millions of people freed from the
white slavery of Tammany Hall,
to be regenerated and redeemed,
politically.

To but few men have been given
such broad acres for public ser-
vice in which there may be har-
vested still greater public prefer-
ment.
The way in which Mayor Mitchell
shall husband his power not only
concerns his future and the future
of a great city but it also con-
cerns the future of the nation and
the world.

It is for him and his advisers to
demonstrate that the victory over
Tammany last November was not
an empty one and merely the cli-
max of a passing spasm of reform.
It is for them to make it a per-
manent victory and to give the
metropolis the best government it
has ever had.

Tammany has been overthrown
before but the defeat was not per-
manent. Success was not pur-
sued and the machine was given
time in which to rally its scattered
forces and recover the ground it
had lost.

Though young in years Mayor
Mitchell has in his public life
given promise of great growth. He
is progressive and has always been
allied with the forces of practical
reform. That he is not a player
to the gallery is evidenced by his
inaugural announcement that he
would seek publicity not before
after his act was over.

If there is to be an end to
machine government in New York
the ground gained last fall must
be retained and to do this the
city should be wrested from the
control of the legislature and
granted home rule. Another re-
form to be secured is one in the
election laws which will provide a
rational ballot without party
designations.

By administering economically
without fear or favor, the thirty-
four year old mayor can render
unto opportunity full recompense
for her trust and confidence.
A former county judge, having
been allowed \$500 a year for
clerk hire, appointed his son to
the position. The son held the
place for five years, doing nothing
except some perfunctory personal
service for his father. Two tax-
payers brought suit and Justice
Van Sicken ruled that either the
father or his son must pay back
into the county treasury the entire
\$2500 because no part of the
money was earned.

It is said to be the first time
in which the theory that allow-
ance for clerk hire and incidental
expenses are perquisites of office,
has been successfully challenged
in court. But whether or not the
ruling sets a precedent, it is good
law. The man who pays taxes has
the right to demand full value in
services for salaries paid from
public funds.
Efficiency in government is
based primarily upon the idea
of getting value received for the tax-
payer's money. This rule should
hold not only as to large expendi-
tures, but also with small items

of expense. It should be oper-
ative with officials and employees
as well as with contractors and
the sellers of supplies.

The day of official perquisites is
passing. If public office is a pub-
lic trust there is even greater ob-
ligation of honesty in spending the
taxpayer's money than in spending
private funds.

SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS

SCHOOL playgrounds are dis-
cussed in a bulletin recently
issued by the United States
bureau of education. It is
asserted that every city school
should have at least one full block
of ground, whether the block is
of one, two or ten acres. The
high school needs at least ten
acres, says the bulletin, and the
country school should never have
less than three acres.

American schools in general
have inadequate yards. But dur-
ing the past few years, because of
the development of the play move-
ment, there has come an increased
demand for ground space around
school buildings.

The state boards of education
in Pennsylvania and Virginia will
not approve plans for new school
buildings that do not provide for
adequate playgrounds. In San An-
gelo, Texas, every school but one
has two blocks at least, and two
schools have ten acres of play
space. The first school built in
Gary, Indiana, had two acres of
playground, the second had four,
the third eleven, and a lot recently
purchased contains twenty acres.

There is a very strong senti-
ment all over the country for larger
school grounds, says the bulletin.
Yards are being augmented in
many cities where there is an op-
portunity to purchase adjoining
pieces of land at prices that are
not prohibitive. Cities are paying
as much as \$10,000 an acre for
such land. Two years ago Hous-
ton, Texas, voted \$500,000 in
bonds for enlarging the yards of
several of its old schools.

The bulletin says that city chil-
dren need good sized school yards
because there is no other place
to play except in the streets. Coun-
try children need a large yard be-
cause at home there is no one to
play with except at the simplest
games for little children.
It is pointed out that larger
school grounds are demanded, not
only for the sake of organized
play, which has come to have a
recognized value in education, but
also for school gardening, open
air classes, physical training and
other activities that have made
the school yard "nearly as impor-
tant as the classroom in the con-
duct of a modern school."

The new industrialism
ILLUSTRATION of what is called
the new industrialism is found
at Port Sunlight, near Liver-
pool. The greatest soap works
in the world is located there, and
a recent report on operation of the
works is interesting.
The company spent about \$2,-
500,000 on cottages for its em-
ployees and placed the rental at a
price barely sufficient to keep the
cottages in good repair. The idea
was that proper housing of the em-
ployees would return profits to the
company through their greater ef-
ficiency, and experience has just-
ified the expenditure.

Effective town planning so that
each home has its own lawn and
garden has reduced the death rate
to the lowest in England. Every-
thing that could be thought of
to make life worth living, apart
from the soap industry itself, has
been done.
When an employee reaches the
age of 25 years and has been five
years with the company he may
receive a copartnership certificate
based on ten per cent of his an-
nual pay. These certificates ac-
cumulate year by year and draw
dividends five per cent less than
profits paid ordinary shareholders.
The holder of such a certificate
may become an ordinary share-
holder by paying the difference
in value between a work and a
stock certificate.
When an employee receives a
copartnership certificate he signs
a pledge that he will not waste
time, labor, material nor money
in the discharge of his duties, but
will loyally serve the company to
the best of his ability. There is a
system of service annuities and
holiday funds, school fees and
car fares for girl workers not living
in the village.
Sir William Lever, head of the
great establishment, says that his
plan for cooperation has resulted
in an actual increase of produc-
tion and a large increase in the
value of the plant. He says that
distribution of wealth has created
wealth.

Profit sharing has not always
proved a success in America, but
at Port Sunlight it is proving its
worth as an economic device.

"You have got to show me," says
the Missouri poultryman to the
rooster, against which he has de-
clared a war of extermination on
the charge that he is a handicap
on egg production.

Good roads is a timely topic
with the farmer now as though
rain and mud he slowly wends his
weary way.
Until the police arrived, it was
impossible to proceed with the
bridge meeting at the Library Sat-
urday night. Is it, or is it not,

a reflection on Portland when the
police must be called in order to
enable a deliberative assembly to
deliberate? Beginning with the re-
cent school meeting, continuing
with the near mobs in the council
chamber and having for its latest
manifestation the bridge meeting
Saturday night, are the late ex-
ploits of public assembly in Port-
land such that we should all be
proud to see in print abroad?

Letters From the People

(Communications sent to The Journal
for publication in this department should be
written on only one side of the paper, should
not exceed 100 words, and should be
accompanied by the name and address of the
sender. The editor does not desire to be
concerned with the name of the sender, but
the name of the sender should be
published in the same column.)
"Discussion is the greatest of all reforms.
It rationalizes everything it touches. It
rids the mind of all false authority and
throws it back on their responsibility. If
they have no reasonableness, it ruthlessly
crushes them. A phenomenal array of
their own conclusions in their stead."—Woodrow
Wilson.
Poverty of the Unemployed.
Portland, Jan. 3.—To the Editor of
The Journal.—The annual ad over the
lack of employment in the cities of
the coast in no wise represents the
true condition of affairs underlying the
progress of these municipalities. The
regular recurrence of such conditions
in the midst of stirring progress along
all essential lines should lead critics
to search for the real cause. To
blame the unemployed on the basis of
the fact that the unemployment does
not locate the blame. Portland, for
instance, has made prodigious strides
in the past ten years and will con-
tinue to do so. A phenomenal array of
before all of the large Pacific coast
cities. With the awakening of the
east and the completion of the Pan-
ama canal, the western seaboard bids
fair to become the commercial cen-
ter of the world.
Portland is not dead nor dying. Yet
at certain seasons she has her unem-
ployed and her needy. But why is this?
Well, she has a mild climate and
many seek homes here. The bona fide
settlers of the coast are the first to
find employment, but very many
transients without families or
responsibility as to tax burdens are
every year employed. These transients
are the cause of the unemployment
problem for the most part. Their
spendthrifts. Watch the army of them
crowding the cities. By far the greater
part of their earnings is thrown into
the hands of the transient. They are
not for other things which are not neces-
sities. If the money thus spent in
Portland were placed in a relief fund
to be spent on the basis of need, it
would have a large fund in re-
serve. I am persuaded that where
such people came to depend upon Sa-
maritanism much of our philanthropy
is misplaced. We need a self and
perpetuate the lazaroni. There is work
for great numbers of these men on
farms and at such jobs as cutting
wood and such other work. They can
be employed for the highest wage, and
then will not go out so far into the
country but they can get to their ac-
customed city home at night. The
spare of children and young people,
and in some cases of whole families.
All the money of the two classes
mentioned instead of being thrown
into the channels of legitimate trade,
it would furnish employment for many
of the unemployed. The city is also
blame in that much if not all her con-
tract work is given to monopolistic
contractors. Because, forsooth, they
can keep the money and needlessly
wasting while small contractors are
idle and being driven from the field.
This is neither economy nor munici-
pal business. The small contractor
contractors are residents and property
owners and pay taxes in the city and
spend virtually all of their earnings in
Portland, and to favor monopolistic
contractors is to favor the financial ruin of the
lesser ones is to be penny wise and
pound foolish.
Now, I do not mean that the labor-
ing man should be given a right to
economic control. The capitalist lives
sumptuously. Not at all. This latter
is an evil that government must
reconcile with and must exterminate by
peaceful methods and there will be an
uprising of the people.
However, the fact remains that while
we plead our poverty we support a
shameful number of the unemployed
by gambling tables, and a pen-
sionable lot of foolish vanity in at-
tire. It looks paradoxical, to say the
least.
WILBUR N. COFFEY.
Advocates Folk Dances.
Portland, Or., Jan. 5.—To the Editor
of The Journal.—In a recent article
in The Journal Mr. Coffey, in regard
to folk dancing in the schools, says: "It
is a trespass on moral rights." etc. I
believe my readers will agree with
me. Those folk dances were originally
harmless amusements, bringing vil-
lagers together in God's beautiful out-
doors. In those days, because of the
wholeheartedness, they were happier
and stronger. There were fewer
hospitals and as any physician will
tell you, fewer doctors. If you watch
any file of pupils coming out of
school where no folk dancing is
taught, and see the little tensioned
shoulders and stooped bodies, you will
hold your hand against the sky and
say, "Give us any exercise that pre-
vents such conditions." There is
nothing that relaxes little bodies like
the little simple steps of the folk
dances. Dancing draws out the self-
conscious little chap and makes him
forget himself. It produces grace
and harmony, causes better circula-
tion and brighter eyes and makes for
better health.
True, as Mr. Coffey says, they dance
in the restricted districts, and they also
eat there, but because of this, eating
is not necessarily wrong. AS
A CHAMPION OF DANCING.
Against Bourne's Measure.
Portland, Or., Jan. 5.—To the Editor
of The Journal.—In your last issue for
1913 Jonathan Bourne Jr. reasserts his
intention to place on the ballot the
measure forbidding pay to circulators
of initiative and referendum peti-
tions. For the sake of the readers of
the people of Oregon and of the
entire country while United States
senator for six years I greatly honor
the gentleman and regret exceedingly
that he has chosen to waste his en-
ergies and wealth upon so dangerous a
measure if it can be enforced, and so
cooling a measure if it cannot be. The
measure proposed is inherently wrong
because it is a covert attack upon the
initiative and referendum, as well as
an attack upon the right of petition.
Free speech is free press. It would
forbid an association of workmen to
contribute even carfare to one of
their number who might be selected

as the most competent to circulate a
petition.
Senator Bourne would prohibit a
civic organization from employing a
lecturer to appear before audiences in
advocacy of a proposed measure. The
petition would be signed by those of
the audience who wished to do so, and
the lecturer would go on to other au-
diences, and other signers would be se-
lected. In other words, as Mr. Bourne
respect for the guaranteed and inalien-
able right of men no law will hold
good that seeks to prohibit men from
exercising their rights. It is not to
sign a petition for an initiative or re-
ferendum measure merely and solely
because pay has been received for
service and ability given along this
line. If Senator Bourne does not pro-
pose to prohibit paid officials and
representatives of civic organizations
from lecturing and soliciting sig-
natures, then his bill is mere gibberish.

There has been some fraud; so there
has been in bank checks. The Bourne
measure would make a citizen a
criminal in Oregon have not sustained
the allegations of fraud, much of such
allegation being for effect in influ-
encing the public mind on the meas-
ures proposed or opposed.
He is in error in saying circulators
of petitions do not secure publicity
for their cause. They do nothing
about it practically, and I do not
recently I have secured directly over
2000 signatures for a proposed meas-
ure, and publicity was given to many
times that number of them. Some of
were interested in its welfare. With-
out a part of my expenses having been
paid I could not have donated my time
to the cause. The financial value of this
work was far in excess of the com-
mercial value of the signatures.
Would Senator Bourne prohibit the
salaries of the chamber of commerce
secretary and the secretary of the
chamber of commerce? The chamber of
commerce is a body of men who will
not be long in the future will be
introduced in various Oregon legisla-
tures that have never got by the first
committee. For perhaps the senator
does not realize that the chamber of
commerce can be appointed and paid
at the pleasure of that body. And so with
any other civic organization.

ALFRED D. CRIDGE.
Defends Dancing in General.
Portland, Jan. 5.—To the Editor of
The Journal.—I have been reading in
The Journal that Jonathan Bourne Jr.
of Portland is fighting dancing as a
very grave evil. I wish to say a
few words for one of the greatest
pleasures known to young people. Its
purity and propriety depend on the
person. There are people who could
not look on an angel without lustful
thoughts. Possibly there are such
people in the industrial and commer-
cial centers of the world. But the great
fallen ministers are at times brought
to our notice. Dancing is one way of
expressing our love for music. A little
child will unconsciously keep time
to the music of an old woman, but
there was no greater pleasure for
me than dancing and many times I
said, when young, that if dancing was
not one of the pleasures of heaven I
could not go to heaven. No one can
be very bad if their hearts are full of
the joy of living. I am certain the
ministers are judging something they
know nothing about—that is, person-
ality. The child who would not be
churches to their young people and
give dances under their own super-
vision, chaperone the young and join
them such dances. The child who
the dance would keep everyone
young in spirit and there could be no
evil consequences.
Religion practiced every day in the
home is the only way to a good life.
It is the crying need of our time. There
are too many denominations with im-
posing churches that have cost thou-
sands of dollars and are idle monuments
to the past. The church that is not
willing to bear the burden of taxation,
and a sight for a just God to look down
upon at the present time, is a disgrace
to the church. What of those
beggars are ascending constantly for
justice!
If our ministers of the gospel would
only let natural and innocent joys,
alone and get together and furnish a
few churches to succor the poor now,
they might experience some of the
joys of religion in the real good that
would do and that the person can have
every creature comfort and still be
starving for the warmth of spirit and
companionship our master gave to his
followers so farly.
The poor old man fostered in joy-
ful living and the young man in joy-
ful living. So let the young laugh,
sing, dance and enjoy, with our con-
sent, all innocent pleasures, and our
blessings and prayers be for them.
MRS. MINNIE JENKS.
Disagrees With Mr. Bourne.
Portland, Jan. 3.—To the Editor of
The Journal.—It is seen from the
petitions, it may seem presumptuous
for a man of meagre standing to
speak in opposition to ex-Senator
Bourne; yet a different station in life
enables me to see things from a differ-
ent viewpoint. Just how Mr. Bourne
can believe in the initiative and refer-
endum, with all it means for political
justice and economic justice, and at the
same time oppose the initiative and refer-
endum, is a puzzle. The citizen is in-
capable of casting an intelligent vote,
as his veiled declarations by letter indicate, is a puzzle
to right thinking people. It does
not seem that the initiative of any
measure has any actual bearing on the
demand for its becoming a law. Must
such things be guarded by a committee
of eight? Must the electorate, de-
ciding this matter? If Mr. Bourne has
this idea of the initiative he surely has
not got very far away from the old
precinct bosses and election judges.
The initiative is a plan for compensa-
tion, by a paid circulator, is as legiti-
mate, fair and honorable as the drafting
of any measure by any compensated
person. If the citizen has not the time
nor opportunity to lay down their daily
tasks and give all their time to peti-
tioning, then let them employ a paid
circulator. It is their right. They can
favorable to their cause. They can
favor or even understand the merits of
the measure that I ask to be submitted.
Frankly, I confess that I do not know
the measure, but for the sake of the
anxious learner. Who pays the ex-
pense of these measures, outside of the
ink and extra paper used therein?
Surely not the state. Is it the duty
of election, and not the filing of the
petition, the trial of the merit of the
measure?
The working class are now provided
with the initiative. Surely but slowly
they are learning to use it. They will
not willingly yield to special privi-
leges that limit their power. The
cause for democracy is more democ-
racy. Stand by the laurels you have won,
ye of the working class.
C. W. BARZEE.

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civic organization from employing a
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commerce can be appointed and paid
at the pleasure of that body. And so with
any other civic organization.

ALFRED D. CRIDGE.
Defends Dancing in General.
Portland, Jan. 5.—To the Editor of
The Journal.—I have been reading in
The Journal that Jonathan Bourne Jr.
of Portland is fighting dancing as a
very grave evil. I wish to say a
few words for one of the greatest
pleasures known to young people. Its
purity and propriety depend on the
person. There are people who could
not look on an angel without lustful
thoughts. Possibly there are such
people in the industrial and commer-
cial centers of the world. But the great
fallen ministers are at times brought
to our notice. Dancing is one way of
expressing our love for music. A little
child will unconsciously keep time
to the music of an old woman, but
there was no greater pleasure for
me than dancing and many times I
said, when young, that if dancing was
not one of the pleasures of heaven I
could not go to heaven. No one can
be very bad if their hearts are full of
the joy of living. I am certain the
ministers are judging something they
know nothing about—that is, person-
ality. The child who would not be
churches to their young people and
give dances under their own super-
vision, chaperone the young and join
them such dances. The child who
the dance would keep everyone
young in spirit and there could be no
evil consequences.
Religion practiced every day in the
home is the only way to a good life.
It is the crying need of our time. There
are too many denominations with im-
posing churches that have cost thou-
sands of dollars and are idle monuments
to the past. The church that is not
willing to bear the burden of taxation,
and a sight for a just God to look down
upon at the present time, is a disgrace
to the church. What of those
beggars are ascending constantly for
justice!
If our ministers of the gospel would
only let natural and innocent joys,
alone and get together and furnish a
few churches to succor the poor now,
they might experience some of the
joys of religion in the real good that
would do and that the person can have
every creature comfort and still be
starving for the warmth of spirit and
companionship our master gave to his
followers so farly.
The poor old man fostered in joy-
ful living and the young man in joy-
ful living. So let the young laugh,
sing, dance and enjoy, with our con-
sent, all innocent pleasures, and our
blessings and prayers be for them.
MRS. MINNIE JENKS.
Disagrees With Mr. Bourne.
Portland, Jan. 3.—To the Editor of
The Journal.—It is seen from the
petitions, it may seem presumptuous
for a man of meagre standing to
speak in opposition to ex-Senator
Bourne; yet a different station in life
enables me to see things from a differ-
ent viewpoint. Just how Mr. Bourne
can believe in the initiative and refer-
endum, with all it means for political
justice and economic justice, and at the
same time oppose the initiative and refer-
endum, is a puzzle. The citizen is in-
capable of casting an intelligent vote,
as his veiled declarations by letter indicate, is a puzzle
to right thinking people. It does
not seem that the initiative of any
measure has any actual bearing on the
demand for its becoming a law. Must
such things be guarded by a committee
of eight? Must the electorate, de-
ciding this matter? If Mr. Bourne has
this idea of the initiative he surely has
not got very far away from the old
precinct bosses and election judges.
The initiative is a plan for compensa-
tion, by a paid circulator, is as legiti-
mate, fair and honorable as the drafting
of any measure by any compensated
person. If the citizen has not the time
nor opportunity to lay down their daily
tasks and give all their time to peti-
tioning, then let them employ a paid
circulator. It is their right. They can
favorable to their cause. They can
favor or even understand the merits of
the measure that I ask to be submitted.
Frankly, I confess that I do not know
the measure, but for the sake of the
anxious learner. Who pays the ex-
pense of these measures, outside of the
ink and extra paper used therein?
Surely not the state. Is it the duty
of election, and not the filing of the
petition, the trial of the merit of the
measure?
The working class are now provided
with the initiative. Surely but slowly
they are learning to use it. They will
not willingly yield to special privi-
leges that limit their power. The
cause for democracy is more democ-
racy. Stand by the laurels you have won,
ye of the working class.
C. W. BARZEE.

PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE
At any rate, John Lind got back
alive.
Some persons who deserve large
fees get exorbitant ones.
Spring already. At least the up-to-date
or ahead-of-date merchants are show-
ing "spring" goods.
Some men deserve to go hungry
and some men deserve to be distinguished
from worthy men out of work.
It is improbable that the fellow who
won't work and is always trying to
stir up trouble is ever really happy.
A great number of Bibles are an-
nounced printed and sold. "But many
people who buy a Bible don't read it."

OREGON SIDELIGHTS
An observer of Christmas trade at
Astoria reports that the Astoria
store in gifts ran inventories of articles of
furniture and other such useful things.
Also, trade was better than last year.
The mining industry in Baker coun-
ty, the Democrat claims, closes the
year with a record of high output
greater than for 10 years past and
with an exceedingly bright outlook
for 1914.
The Medford Sun expands the "Oregon
First" slogan to this measure:
"A railroad ad in a magazine refers
to 'Arkansas-Romance.' Story given to
the Union. Even so. But Oregon has
produced as much romance, with
uniqueness and adventure, as such
places as Arkansas, Texas and Missouri
combined."

Testimony to the effect that the
high cost of living is contained
in this statement in the Forest Grove
Press: "The price of eggs has risen
a day at \$3 a week is not a bad record,
considering the price of eggs has risen
and other foodstuffs, yet that is what
the Boys' club of Pacific University
is paying for board, and they are get-
ting fat on it."

A marble tablet that was placed
in the foundation of the Humphrey
Memorial Methodist church at Eugene
in 1884, has been removed and given to
the Humphrey heirs. Mrs. Cynthia A.
Humphrey donated \$2000 toward build-
ing the church. The church was named
in her honor. The building was
recently sold to the P. E. & E.
company, granted permission to
remove the tablet.

Astoria Budget: The custom of sing-
ing carols on Christmas Eve through-
out the streets in Astoria is gradually be-
coming established. The singers who
claim to be the best in the city are
a great deal of credit and this is gen-
erally meted out to them by the ap-
preciation of the people. The singers
are: The Astoria High School, the
Astoria Y. M. C. A., the Astoria Y. W. C. A.,
and the Astoria High School. The
Christmas were heard just before the
coming of Christmas Day.

THE PROFESSION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

From the Houston Chronicle.
Some readers may and doubtless
will ask: Who ever heard of such a
profession as that of the public health?
It is a new profession, and it is a
new name for an old thing. It is a
profession that is growing, and it is a
profession that is becoming more and
more important. It is a profession
that is becoming more and more im-
portant. It is a profession that is
becoming more and more important.
There is such a profession, and any
man who has observed the modern
tendency toward the preventive rather
than the curative in medicine will not
be surprised to hear of it.
The health of the nation is a sub-
ject which transcends in importance
all others, because by disease and sick-
ness the industrial and economic life
of the nation are reduced and the
national prosperity and growth are